

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

Steering Committee Meeting

January 11, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Resources Agency Bldg., Room 1311

Draft Meeting Notes

Associated documents/handouts:

- Agenda
- Draft 11/16/07 Steering Committee (SC) meeting notes
- Draft 11/30/07 Steering Committee (SC) meeting notes
- Draft 12/14/07 Steering Committee (SC) meeting notes
- BDCP Framework Overview Fish Agencies Revision (10/30/07)
- Draft BDCP Working Biological Goals (1/11/08)
- Draft BDCP Working Group and Technical Team Protocols (1/11/08)

Action Items and Key Decisions

- Working groups and technical teams will continue to convene regularly and provide reports and recommendations to SC. See individual reports from each group below.
- BDCP members will be invited to attend field trips to sites in the planning area.
- Working group and technical team protocols are complete.

Updates

- Leo Winternitz & Anthony Saracino reporting: The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) and faculty from UC Davis are preparing a report called “Comparing Futures of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta” as a follow-up to their 2007 “Envisioning Futures” report. Profs. Jeffrey Mount and Jay Lund have received grant funding and will address topics including Delta hydrodynamics, levees, and economics under different future scenarios and the development of a decision analysis tool. Preliminary results are expected June 2008.
- Anthony Saracino reporting: The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has completed a hydrologic modeling tool that predicts water flows based on operation of infrastructure/facilities. PPIC may use that tool for their upcoming report. TNC is hosting a modeling workshop to present the model on 1/29; all are invited.
- John McCamman reporting: Fish monitoring update from DFG. The fall mid-water trawl data has been collected and analyzed for six species. Three of those species were detected in fewer numbers than any year since sampling began, and two others, including Delta smelt, had near lowest numbers.
- Jason Peltier reporting: Delta field trips. Jason Peltier suggested and will spearhead organizing a series of field trips to key sites in the Delta for BDCP members.
- Jerry Johns reporting: NRDC v. Kempthorne - Judge Wanger issued a remedy order in December. Subsequent conditions in the Delta related to turbidity triggered the first action by DWR, which ceased pumping in the Delta for several days. Approximately 100,000 acre feet of water was surrendered during the shut-down.

- NEPA/CEQA process for BDCP is commencing; the Notice of Intent will be published in the Federal Register shortly, and the management team and Public Outreach working group are discussing how to proceed.

Meeting Notes Review

Notes from 11/16/07 are accepted. Notes from 11/30/07 and 12/14/07 are accepted pending minor changes.

Workgroups and Technical Teams Management and Coordination

Karen Scarborough presenting. The management team emailed a document to BDCP members that outlines draft protocols for working groups and technical teams. The protocols include how groups are expected to function internally and how each is anticipated to relate and work with other teams and workgroups. See also Associated Documents/Handouts. In summary, there will be a chair, or co-chairs, and a management team coordinator for each working group/technical team. SAIC and the Resources Agency will coordinate meetings. Record-keeping will occur on an as-needed basis. SAIC will produce the necessary handouts and documents for each group and will handle scheduling and coordination. Groups are trying to schedule regular meetings for coordination efficiency.

There will be a presentation of the DRERIP models at Analytical Tools meeting on 1/17, and members of the Habitat Restoration team and Conveyance workgroup are invited to attend.

Biological Goals and Objectives Working Group

Jason Peltier and Gary Bobker (co-chairs) presenting. The Working Group came to internal consensus on language for biological goals. They recommended to SC that these goals be considered “working draft” for BDCP, with the understanding that some details may iterate in accordance with the specific terms of the BDCP. See Associated Documents/Handouts.

The Fisheries Agencies provided a handout (paper copy only) with suggestions for edits to the current set of proposed goals to align them more closely with language in the BDCP Planning Agreement. They suggest adding an overarching conservation goal and a preamble, and aiming for “viability” of each species, rather than “survival.”

There was discussion among SC members regarding the appropriate level of detail that should be included in the goals, objectives, and conservation measures. There are no specific requirements within the relevant laws and regulations on the matter. The points brought up today will be addressed at the next workgroup meeting and revised goals will be brought before the SC.

At their next meeting, the Working Group will discuss BDCP biological objectives.

Habitat Restoration Program Technical Team

Dave Harlow and John Cain (co-chairs) presenting. The Team came to internal consensus on their charge, which is to develop habitat-related conservation measures and to identify locations in the Delta and Suisun that have opportunity for restoration. They will coordinate closely with the other workgroups and technical teams.

Their next steps are to complete a draft map of Conservation Opportunity Areas and to develop a prioritization process. These tasks will be completed by 5/2. They will seek advice from scientists during the process.

There was some discussion among SC members about the charge to the Habitat Restoration Team, including whether the team should address non-habitat-related stressors like toxicity. The team co-chair and management team members noted that those issues would be covered by the Other Stressors technical team, to be constituted in the near future, and that the Habitat Restoration team is anticipated to work closely with that and other working groups and teams.

Jerry Johns noted that a levee break occurred recently in Suisun Marsh and that DWR is not planning to repair it; that area may provide additional restorable habitat.

Conveyance Working Group

Jerry Johns and Ann Hayden (co-chairs) presenting. The first meeting will be held next week. They will discuss the scope and charge of the Working Group and how to include operating criteria and modeling, and how to frame isolated facility and operations planning. They will be working closely with the Analytical Tools technical team and other working groups.

Analytical Tools Technical Team

Jerry Johns (co-chair) presenting. The first team meeting was held 1/4/08 and was well attended. Bruce DiGennaro has been brought on to help facilitate meetings. The team discussed tools that will be used for developing and assessing BDCP, some of which may be used for both. They also discussed tools that may be used for implementation of BDCP, and possible development of new tools for implementation.

The team is a resource for the other working groups and technical teams and a venue for vetting tools and ideas for analysis.

The Interagency Ecological Program annual conference will be held in February in Asilomar. There will be in-depth presentations of hydrologic models, many of which could be relevant to BDCP.

The next team meeting will be held on 1/17/08. The team will review work products from SAIC describing model/tool capabilities and application, discuss undertaking a review of currently-available models, and will have a presentation on the DRERIP conceptual models. The team will present a recommended scope of work to the SC at the next meeting.

Implementing Structure/Governance Working Group

Richard Roos-Collins and Roger Patterson (co-chairs). Their first meeting will be held 1/17, at which time they will discuss scope and charge.

Public Outreach Working Group

Karla Nemeth (chair) presenting. Selection process for consultant is now complete. Jones and Stokes was selected and will commence work shortly. The working group will reconvene in the coming weeks.

Public Comments

No comments were submitted.

Attendees

Management and representatives

Karen Scarborough (Chair, The Resources Agency)

Marc Ebbin (The Resources Agency/DWR)

Will Stelle (The Resources Agency)

Richard Roos-Collins (American Rivers, NHI)

Roger Patterson (Metropolitan)

Jerry Johns (DWR)

Karla Nemeth (Zone 7)

Ara Azhderian (SLDMWD)

Frank Michny (USBR)

Tracy Ligon (Santa Clara Valley Water District)

Jason Peltier (Westlands)

Chris Scheuring (CFBF)

Brent Walthall (Kern County)

Anthony Saracino (TNC)

Greg Gartrell (CCWD)

Kim Delfino (Defenders of Wildlife)

Ann Hayden (Environmental Defense)

Russ Strach (NMFS)

John Engbring (USFWS)

John McCamman (DFG)

Paul Cylinder (SAIC)

Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute)

Leo Winternitz (CBDA)

Laura King Moon (State Water Contractors)

Carl Wilcox (DFG)

By phone

Dale Myers (Zone 7)

Ron Kino (Mirant)

Denise Reed (Lead scientist)

John Cain (NHI)

Other attendees
See sign-in sheets